

IN THE BEGINNING



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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 7 - No. 27

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Lester A. Harding, Editor

Editor's Notes —

We would like to make some corrections in the last issue. In the picture of the Spencer hay crew cook-shack the name of the lady sitting down was given as Mrs. E. E. Porter. It should have read Mrs. E. E. Kelley. Mrs. Kelley's daughter Mrs. Porter Powell had sent the picture. Evidently that is where the name of Porter became mixed in it.

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We find that there are still some persons that believe that a subscription to the IN THE BEGINNING constitutes a membership in the Historical Society. They are separate and have a separate bank account.

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'Our Yesteryears' Journal of the Wilson County Historical Society, Fredonia, ceased publication at the end of 1973. It was a quarterly and gave news of historical interest of Wilson County. Its life span was five years. In its place a newsletter is being sent out to members.

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To the best of our knowledge, we believe that "In The Beginning," is the only publication of its kind put out by a county Historical Society in the State of Kansas.

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When we got started with the story of Rose that begins in this issue it was almost like a snowman, when we started it rolling, it kept getting bigger and bigger. It will be continued in the October issue and perhaps in another one. Rose seemed to be quite a town in its heyday.

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We think the story of the Woodruff family in this issue is most interesting because of the recollections that some of the family have put down in writing.

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With the story of the Eagle family, it seems as though the most of this issue is about people in the south part of the county. We had some shorter articles that we had intended to use in this issue, but the limited space did not permit them. They will be in the next issue. We have many more stories that we would like to get in print before time runs out on us.

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IN THE BEGINNING
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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The March, 1974, meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held Tuesday evening, March 26, in the dining hall of the Woodson Hotel. There were 57 present for the dinner. Christine Kramer presented the program showing colored slides and telling about her trip to Old Mexico.

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At the regular meeting held May 21, 1974, there were 61 present. This was the annual Memorial Program presented in honor of the nine members that we have lost by death in the past year. They were Ray C. Singleton, 87; Neva E. Mulsow, 46; Maynie Beine, 78; Mrs. Maude Dingus, 90; Walter A. Bowers, 74; Pearl C. Laidlaw, 79; Clarissa S. Cantrell, 78; Harold Trussler, 73; Hattie B. Koenig, 83.

The Memorial Program was in charge of Mrs. Avis Ireland and Mrs. Lettie Streater. Rev. Dan Pennie, pastor of the Christian Church gave a short address.

The Miss Woodson County Hay Queen, Miss Sheila Doyle, and her chaperone, Mrs. Linda Steiner were also present for this meeting. Miss Doyle gave a resume of her activities since becoming Queen and the Miss America contest to be held at Pratt, Kansas, July 10-14, in which she will participate.

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Mrs. Iris Winfrey has been appointed to take the place of Mrs. Clarissa Cantrell, to represent the Historical Society on the Yates Center Chamber of Commerce committee for the Centennial. This occasion will be in 1975.

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The Woodson County Historical Museum was opened up for a tour by the 5th grade pupils of the Yates Center Elementary School, Monday May 20, 1974. There were 45 pupils accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Edwina Martin and Mrs. Nora Shepard. The museum was opened to the public the last week in May.

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A committee made up of members of the Woodson County Historical Society has been appointed to assist in the planning for the Yates Center Centennial to be held in 1975. This committee consists of Mrs. Dorothy Kimbell, Carl Harder, Elmer Krueger, Mrs. Virginia Schornick and Mrs. Lottie Stockebrand.

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THE WOODRUFF FAMILY —

It was along towards evening, September 19, 1867, when two prairie schooners came up the gentle grade to a two story log house on a high grade overlooking South Owl Creek and the north branch of that creek along which the cabin was located. In these schooners were the family of Abram T. Woodruff. They were Abram, his wife Sarah A., and four children; Charles H., John F., Mary J., and James P. About a month after their arrival another son Albert was born in the log house.

Abram Woodruff had first come here to Woodson County in the spring of 1866 and made purchase of the farm where the log house mentioned was located. This house had been built by John Mabie, who had homesteaded the farm. It was located in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30-Twp. 25-R. 16.

In the writing of the Woodruff family we are very fortunate in having access to written family history in diary form by several members of this family. We will take excerpts of these writings and other stories accumulated in the writing of this story. But first we will go back to the family home in Ohio.

Abram was the seventh of twelve children of Nathan and Mary Ann Woodruff and was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, July 11, 1834. In 1849 the family moved to Adams County, Indiana. It was here when he was 16 years old that Abram first started in building and construction work. He found work hauling timber to build a plank or "corduroy" road. This was heavy timbered and swampy land. To make these road logs were hewn on three sides and placed side by side with the rounded side down. Abram's job was to drag these logs to the site with a yoke of oxen. He soon learned how to hew these logs in this building and brought this trade with him as they came to Woodson County.

During the Civil War, Abram T. Woodruff was a member of the 192nd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Abram T. Woodruff and Sarah Ann Kretzinger were married April 9, 1857. Their nine children were Charles T., John F., Mary J., James P., Albert H., Clinton A., Hattie M., and Frank.

Prior to bringing his family to Kansas, Abram Woodruff made an exploratory trip to Woodson County. It was about this time that the Government had endowed the land grant colleges and it was possible to go to the General Land Office and purchase college scrip at sixty-five dollars for a quarter section of government land.

Early in the spring of 1866, Abram Woodruff started west, stopping in Chicago at the land office and bought enough college scrip to take

twelve quarter sections of land. From there he went to Iowa, where a brother David lived. Reaching Topeka he came southwest heading for the Walnut Creek Valley. Upon reaching Emporia he learned there was quite a disturbance in Walnut Creek Valley, evidently by Indians. So he came down the Neosho Valley to Neosho Falls. From the Falls he came over in the center of Woodson County. Here he made arrangements to purchase the 80 acres mentioned before. Arrangements were also made to purchase the half section joining on the west of the eighty, making 480 acres for their new home. There was a log schoolhouse on the southwest corner of their new farm.

Going back to the home in Indiana, Abram outfitted the two prairie schooners, and started west. That was on August 11, 1867. They crossed the Mississippi River at Quincy, Illinois, on a ferry. Mary Woodruff, who was a small girl gave this account-"The crossing of the Mississippi River is clear in my memory. I thought we would all be drowned as we drove on the wobbly flat ferry boat. The next distinct memory that I have is of driving west up a gentle slope to our Kansas home. We were all filled with joy at the sight of it after our long journey of six weeks."

And from the memory of John F. Woodruff, who was about five years old at the time of their journey to Kansas we read: "We crossed the Missouri River at Booneville on a ferry boat and from there drove on towards the southwest. We passed through Sedalia and on to Humboldt, Kansas.

We camped there on the river bottom and did some trading. We bought a cook stove and a sod plow and a stirring plow. The farm was about twenty miles west and we drove there the next day. The story and half log cabin was built on high rolling ground east of Owl Creek and could be easily seen for about ten miles. It was near sundown on September 19, 1867 we reached the house. We found the peach orchard loaded with ripe peaches. We set up our new stove in one of the log cabins and settled down to make ourselves comfortable.

A few days after our arrival, Father and Mr. Wollam, who had come all the way with us, drove to Kansas City with two teams to get the goods that had been shipped by railroad. This was the nearest point on the railroad and was about one hundred and fifteen miles from our house. Father bought a barrel of salt pork for ten dollars and we loaded it and the goods on the wagons and started for home."

Up the creek from the Woodruff home were the cabins of Issac Landis and the Sain Brothers, John and William. And on the south branch were the cabins of Jonathan Scott and Lindsey families, and the three bachelors; John Iverson, D.V. Dow and Doctor Campbell.

Again quoting John Woodruff; "During the first few years after our arrival, there were many newcomers who came and built small houses

on their claims. It was a pasttime for my brother and I to climb up on the roof of our cabin and locate the new houses. I remember on one occasion we were on the lookout on the roof, we saw a large black bear following the old Indian Trail not more than forty rods from our cabin. There was no timber except for a small fringe along the streams and we could follow the movements of the bear for ten or twelve miles after he passed our cabin. When father returned home from his work at the mill he told that a man living on the river below Neosho Falls has killed a black bear that week and we concluded that it must have been the same bear."

INDIANS - The old Indian Trail coming from the northeast crossed the South Branch of Owl Creek almost due south of the Woodruff cabin. The trail cut diagonal across the Woodruff land. Large parties of Indians would travel this trail each spring and fall as they went to and from their reservation in northeastern Kansas. They wintered far in the southwest and returned in the spring after the grass started enough to furnish grass for their ponies.

John F. Woodruff recalled-"I remember one day after school I saw the tribe making camp in the creek bottom northeast of the log schoolhouse. They occupied about twelve acres of land which was covered with a heavy growth of bluestem grass. (This was on land still owned by Claude Woodruff a grandson of Abram Woodruff). There were many ponies and bright colored blankets. Although there were many campfires neither the tribe nor the smaller parties who often camped along the stream ever set fire to the grass nor left any live coals in their fires. As the country became more thickly settled, the old Indian Trail was fenced up. The Indian reservations were broken up and the Indians were transferred to the Indian Territory, so that by 1871 we saw very few Indians in our neighborhood."

The little town of Chellis was started about a half mile north of the Woodruff cabin. Later this became Kalida.

Again from the pen of John F. Woodruff-The spring of 1868 I recall that on one Sunday morning, Mother looking away to the southwest said. 'The Indians are coming.' We could see the vanguard as they came over the big hill. By eight o'clock they were passing the cabin and it must have been four afternoon by the time the last of them had passed. This was perhaps the largest number we saw at any one time, though in the fall of 1868 and spring of 1869 a good many passed over the Trail."

The story was told that Albert H. Woodruff was one day taken by an Indian squaw to their camp where he was kept all day. Albert wrote-"Another incident was recalled by me through hearing that

brother Charles had related to his family that Mother had done some favor for some of the Indians and one Indian woman wished to do her a favor in return, and therefore asked that she might make me a pair of moccasins. To do so she wished to take me to the Indian camp. I recall something of being in what seemed to be a house with smoked and sloping walls and that a number of men that did not look like my father and other men stood about a small fire that was built on the ground, or at least not in a stove. I was afraid of them but also afraid to cry. I remember hearing them talk to the woman who had brought me and that I could not understand. Later I was returned to mother with my little feet all clad in the Indians shoes."

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We will now go back to Abram Woodruff, who soon after his arrival in Woodson County, began to display his ability in building bridges, houses, barns and other. Most all of the early years after his coming here a supply of walnut lumber was kept by him. Many a child's casket was made by him as the pioneer life took its toll of mothers and children.

About 1873, Abe Woodruff built the frame work on the old "Sheep Barn" on Turkey Creek for C. H. Weide. The lumber for this frame part was mostly hauled from a saw mill at LeRoy. The beams, joists and stringers were all oak and walnut. Woodruff mortised the joints that were held together with round wood pegs. It was told that in the evenings Mr. Woodruff would have the Weide boys and hired men busy wittling out the walnut and oak pegs to be used the next day.

In 1881, Abram went to Neosho Falls to help reconstruct the mill there at the request of W.L. Parsons. Woodruff worked at Neosho falls on the mill for quite some time. He often would walk the distance home on weekends.

When the Woodruff family came to Woodson County, their post office was Bath. Two years later the town of Chellis was started. Then as the townsite of Chellis was sold to Thomas Davidson, he consulted the neighbors for a suitable name for the new town. Abram suggested the name of Kalida which was chosen.

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The names of the Woodruff families was taken from the Family Tree that we have access to. We may have some of the names attached to the wrong families, but we hope that they will come out all right. As mentioned there were nine children in the Abram T. Woodruff family.

Charles H., married Florence Owen-their children were James O. and Charles H.

John F. married Della Owen Imes. Their children were Owen John, Sarah J., Rebecca Marie Hope.

Mary Jane, she married Jacob Ragle. Their children were Alta, Florence, Paul T., Gertrude.

James P., never married. As a small boy he was thrown from a horse and broke his hip and remained a cripple.

Albert married Carrie Leavitt. Their children were Herbert, Abram, Frank.

Will A., married Evelyn Smith. Their children were Wallace, Daniel, Helen Jayne, Gertrude.

Clinton A., married Gertrude Davidson. They had one daughter Frances E. Gertrude died at birth.

Frank, was married to Edith Naylor. Their children were: Marie, Thelma, Curtis, Claude, George and Lenore.

Harriet (Hattie) was married to Frank Duncan.

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While we mentioned some of the members of this family we would like to tell about at least two of them. Clinton A., when a young man enlisted May, 1898, at LeRoy in Company E of the Twentieth Kansas Volunteers for service in the Spanish American War. After seeing service in several areas he was discharged at the close of the war. Returning home he engaged in farming for awhile, before being elected as Clerk of Court of Woodson County in 1900. In 1917, during World War I, Clinton enlisted in 14th Training Regiment. Later he was given commission as Captain of Infantry and served in 805th Pioneer Infantry.

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Frank Woodruff was the youngest of the family and was the last one to live in Woodson County. He was born on the old homestead. On September 15, 1909, Frank Woodruff was married to Edith Louisa Naylor. Edith was the oldest daughter of Silas and Maggie M. Naylor.

Frank and Edith Woodruff were married at Garden City, Kansas, and lived there until 1913, when they moved back to Woodson County. They lived on and farmed the old home place for several years. Frank was elected to three terms as Probate Judge, 1929-1936. He lost his chance at the fourth term by only seven votes.

As mentioned above Frank and Edith Woodruff were the parents of six children.

Thelma married Orville Steele.

Curtis was married to Helen Smith.

Claude was married to Doris Watts. After her death was married to Edith Moore Cooper.

George married Norma Lee Duncan.

Lenore married Jay McClaren.

As far as we know, Claude Woodruff is the only one of the Woodruff family living in Woodson County.



The Abram Woodruff Family about 1901

Standing left to right-Mrs. Carrie Woodruff, her husband Albert, Jacob Ragle, James Woodruff, Will Woodruff, holding Wallace; Gertrude Ragle, Clinton A. Woodruff, John Woodruff, his wife Della, holding her daughter, Rebecca Marie Hope; Frank Woodruff. Seated left to right-Mary Jane Ragle, holding son Clinton, Paul Ragle, Abram Woodruff, holding grandson Herbert; Mrs. Sarah Ann Woodruff, Florence Ragle, Hattie Woodruff, Owen John Woodruff, Evelyn Woodruff, holding her infant son, Ralph Finley, who lived to be just over a year old.

Seated down in front were, Alta Ragle and Sarah Woodruff.

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Many of the schoolhouses over the county were built by "Abe" Woodruff. In 1872 he helped build the Askren, Dist. No. 2 schoolhouse.

Almost as soon as he arrived in Woodson County, Abe, began making improvements on the Kalida log schoolhouse. We will tell more of that in the history of that school.

It would be difficult to name all of the bridges, barns, houses, schools and other building projects that Abe Woodruff helped build. Walking to and from work at Neosho Falls would not be duplicated at this day and age.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LITTLE SANDY VALLEY —

Along a branch of Little Sandy Creek, just less than a half mile north of the Woodson-Wilson county line occurred a very brutal, gruesome shooting that resulted in three deaths and the seriously wounding of another.

Two graves with an arch connecting the stones for the graves are located in the Buffalo Cemetery, just across the road from the Woodson County line to the north of Buffalo.

On the arch are the words, "Sister and Brother" inscribed on the two stones are the words:

Mary A. Coe-Daughter of
J.B. & M. Anglin
Born Mar. 29, 1856
Murdered
June 24, 1890

Nathaniel, Son of
J.B. & M. Anglin
Born October, 1858
Murdered
June 14, 1890

(The following is taken from the Farmers Advocate of June 27, 1890. The Advocate was published at Yates Center.)

One of the most horrible tragedies that falls to the lot of the average country newspaper to chronicle, occurred about 11:00 a.m. Tuesday last on the Sam Blevins farm in Belmont Township, about ten miles southwest of this city in what might be called the Blevins neighborhood and which tragedy resulted in the death of three persons and the seriously wounding of a fourth, the weapons used being a No. 10 single barrel breech loading shotgun and a five chamber, 38-caliber British Bulldog revolver.

At about 2:30 p.m. on the above day our people were thrown into a high state of excitement at the arrival of a courier in town announcing that Addison E. Coe, 64, well known to many of our people had shot and killed Than Anglin and seriously wounded Adrian T. Anglin, brother of Than, both sons of J.B. Anglin, U.S. Pension Agent at Buffalo.

The courier, Sam Blevins, Jr., a lad about 15 years of age, could give no particulars of the horrible deed that had been enacted. All he knew was that one man had been killed and another had been wounded. Excitement ran high and in less than thirty minutes after receipt of the news, a half dozen buggies were on their way to the scene of the tragedy.

Those who went from this city were Drs. Kellenberger and Turner, Messrs. Trueblood and Clevenger of the Yates Center News, County Attorney, J.H. Stitcher and Attorney Stephenson, Sheriff Keck and son, R.R. Wells of the Woodson Democrat, and ye Advocate man A.E. Macoubrie. The first house visited was that of Adrian T. Anglin,

the wounded man and only surviving victim. Here we found Adrian lying on a bed with his right arm completely shattered from the effects of a gunshot wound. The arm was so badly swollen and was so serious that it was necessary to amputate and Drs. Kellenberger and Turner, assisted by County Coroner Mann of Toronto, who had just arrived, performed the operation, amputating the limb about three inches below the shoulder.

Proceeding about three-quarters of a mile east and a half south was the body of Than Anglin, a brother of Adrian who was lying dead in his home from the effects of a gunshot wound, seven buckshots having entered the left breast, death resulted instantaneously. Mr. Than Anglin was a man about 32 years of age and had been married about six months.

About a half mile directly to the north of where Than Anglin lay, we found the residence of Addison E. Coe, the perpetrator of the horrible deeds described above. Going into the parlor, reclining on a brussle cot lay the body of Addison E. Coe, with a bullet hole above the right eye. In his right hand he still clutched a revolver. On the floor of the same room, stretched at full length and about three feet from the dead man lay the lifeless form of the assassin's wife. She was about 30 years of age. She had been out in the garden hoeing when attacked by the desperate man. One ball from the pistol had penetrated her sunbonnet, just above the right eye, and it is supposed that it had been fired from behind and the woman attempted to flee and was struck by another ball from the same weapon which penetrated the spinal cord just below the base of her neck. The murderer had either dragged the woman into the house or she had crawled there before she expired as she was reclining on her back, with her face turned toward where the body of her husband lay and with her hands folded on her breast.

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The Farmers Advocate, July 18, 1890, carried this article.

It appears that A.E. Coe was a red-handed murderer when he came to Kansas. He killed a young lady in Missouri fifteen years ago because she refused to marry him.

About fifteen years ago, a young man named Ambrose E. Coe walked home from church one Sunday morning with Miss Summers in the little town of Clarksville, Mo. As they reached her home he urged Miss Summers to marry him, which she refused to do. No sooner had the young lady rejected him than Coe locked the door and pulled a butcher knife from his pocket and plunged it into Miss Summers heart.

He was arrested and after many delays he was put on trial when the defense was made on the plea of insanity. He was given a few months

confinement in an asylum and when released went west. He first lived near Middletown just over in Wilson County. After his marriage to Addison E. Anglin, they moved into the Little Sandy Valley.

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ROSE, KANSAS —

It is rather unusual that a town is named after a post office, as the post office is usually given the name of the town. But in this case the post office of Rose was established June 16, 1870, in the home of George Trimble, and was named after his daughter, Rose Trimble. The Trimble home was a mile north and a mile east of the town of Rose.

On September 12, 1882, Stephen Porter, purchased the west half of the southwest quarter of section 8-Twp. 26-R. 16. Then on January 1, 1886, he gave for the sum of \$100 a right-of-way running north and south, to the Verdigris Valley, Independence and Western Railroad (later the Missouri Pacific).

The town of Rose was surveyed on August 16, 1895, by Arthur Moffatt, County Surveyer, for Henry Peters, M.J. Robbins and Leo Hefflefinger, November 22, 1895. The outside dimensions of the surveyed town were, 1174 feet by 780.

As the name Rose, Kansas post office originated several years before the town did we will tell about it first. As mentioned above the first postmaster was George Trimble who was replaced by James M. Staton, on May 23, 1873; Mrs. Nancy A. Trimble, March 23, 1874; Thomas McCulla, Nov. 8, 1883; On April 4, 1884, Isaac M. Camac became postmaster and moved the office to his home a mile north of the Trimble home. On November 4, 1886, the post office was discontinued and the mail sent to Yates Center.

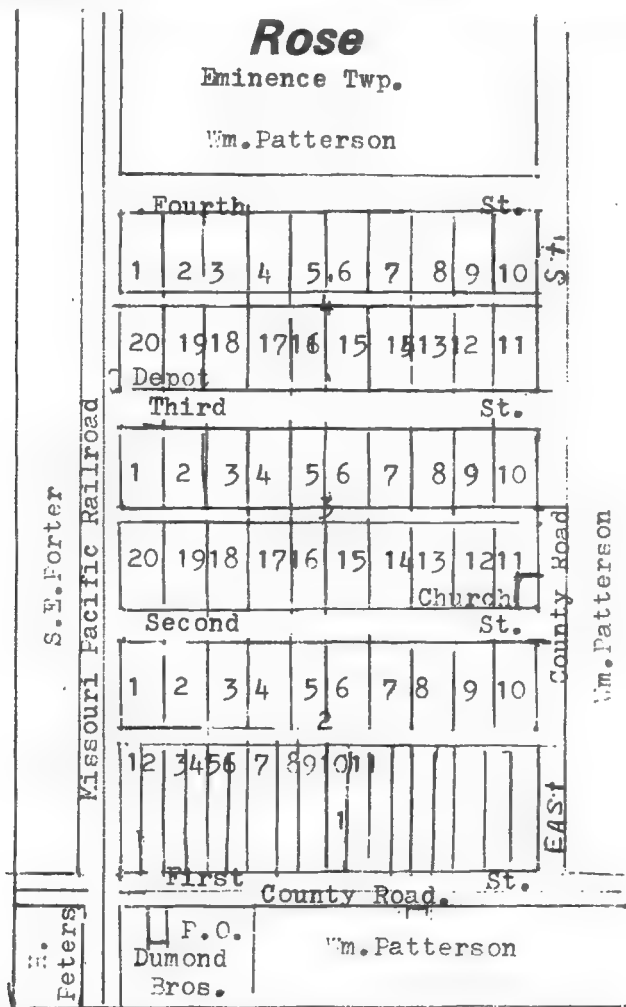
In 1887 the railroad was built from Coffeyville to Yates Center. On August 31, 1887, the Rose post office was re-established with Eden H. Post as postmaster. Other postmasters at Rose were Jonathan Scott, April 21, 1888; John W. Clark, July 10, 1891; Thomas F. Morrison, June 26, 1895; George W. Cox, April 2, 1897; William M. Patterson, Nov. 15, 1899; Pearl C. Peters, July 21, 1900; John W. Richardson, April 29, 1901; Frank J. Dumond, Dec. 29, 1902; Frederick A. Dumond, May 29, 1908; Wm. Finley, Jan. 21, 1913; Bertha A. Simpson, Feb. 19, 1919; Alma B. Evans, Aug. 2, 1920; Arthur B. Evans, 1923; Mrs. Louise E. Robbins, June 12, 1933; Mrs. Gladys H. Bishop, July 1, 1948; Mrs. Alma B. Vice, June 20, 1951.

Again the mail was discontinued at Rose and the mail to Yates Center, effective April 30, 1960.

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Rural Free Delivery Route 1, was established out of Rose in 1904. The inland post office at Ridge was discontinued at this time and the mail was delivered by the rural carrier N.A. Porter from 1904 until 1917; J.J. Simpson until 1920, and George D. McKinsey from then on.

RFD #2 out of Rose was established in 1905 with F.J. Peters as the first carrier until 1907. He was succeeded by A.O. Brush until 1918. S.L. Cox was the rural carrier from 1918 until 1936. The two RFD routes out of Rose were consolidated in 1936 and George McKinsey was the carrier.



Townsite as it was surveyed by Arthur Moffet, County Surveyor, August 16, 1895. The post office, depot and church as they appeared on the Standard Atlas of Woodson County, Kansas, 1904.

The History of Allen and Woodson Counties, published in 1901, gives the following account of the town; Rose consists of a store, blacksmith shop, a church and a large hay market. It is on the Missouri Pacific Railway, eight miles southeast of Yates Center and in the very heart of a fine agricultural and hay region. Less than a hundred souls number its population but its importance as a trading and shipping point is second to none in the state.

Dumond Brothers and Wm. M. Patterson are the leading shippers of the place, and the postmaster and merchant is Tuttle.

The store was on the east side of the tracks and the south side of the road for several years, and operated by the different owners that evidently kept the post office.

The first blacksmith shop was also on the south side of the road and was operated by Bert Wagner. Later it was operated by John Stoll.

June Cox and Hefflefinger, opened a store on the north side of the road. Other early store operators were Henry Schlichting, Alva Brush, Sr., Jonathan Scott, Milton Ibbetson, Al Troyer, Peters Bros. and about the turn of the century the Dumond Brothers who were also large hay dealers.

The Rose Mercantile Co., was a well known store at Rose for several years as the following picture taken from one of their ads shows a small plate with the name of the Rose Mercantile Co. is in the Woodson Co. Museum.

ALMA EVANS
Manager

GABE EVANS
Hired Man

ROSE MERC. CO.

Headquarters for Staple Groceries

ROBINS BEST FLOUR

ALWAYS THE BEST

Ask Gabe to fill your tank with Laughing Gas, and tiddle Lizzie's carburetor

ALSO ALL GRADES OF POLARINE

WE BUY CREAM, TOO

OLD GABE
Coffin Man

ART EVANS
Head Clerk

The Rose Mercantile Co. seemed to be a family affair as the name of Evans was attach to each one of them. This was sometime in the early 1920's. When Miss Alma Evans took over the task of postmaster of

Rose, the store seemed to go with the post office. Her father Arthur Evans went into the store with Alma. Art Evans, head clerk, Gabe Evans, hired man and Old Abe, utility man were all the same man. The people around Rose gave him the nicknames.

Alma Vice became postmaster in August, 1920. In 1923, Arthur Evans became postmaster as Alma resigned her position and was married to Frank Vice. Frank and Alma moved to the Vice Farm in Perry Township. Here they lived until Alma again became postmaster at Rose in June, 1951. She was postmaster here until the office was discontinued in 1960.

Frank and Alma were the parents of two daughters, Juanita, who married Richard 'Dick' Plumb, and Montie who married Glenn Simpson.

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THE STEPHEN E. PORTER FAMILY —

One of the first settlers in what is the Rose vicinity was Stephen E. Porter. Porter was a native of New York State being born near Rochester, April 2, 1847. His father Augustus Porter was also a native of that state.

As a small boy Stephen Porter with his parents left New York State and started west. Stopping for indefinite stays in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa before coming on to Kansas, Stephen was the youngest of three children.

Arriving in Woodson County in spring of 1867, the Porter's first settled along one of the branches of east Buffalo Creek in section 22-26-16. Stephen then took up the north half of the northeast quarter of section 18-Twp. 26-R. 16. This was just a half mile to the west of the present town of Rose. This particular eighty acres was claimed by the M.K. & T. Railroad.

Stephen Porter contested the railroads claim to the land. He won the case, but lost later in an appeal to the General Land Office. It was not until 1877 that Porter received the title to this land.

On November 6, 1868, Stephen Porter was united in marriage to Miss Alma Fearer, in Douglas County, Kansas. She was a native of Illinois. Her father David Fearer was killed by bushwhackers at Independence, Mo. in 1862.

Stephen and Alma Porter improved the 80 acres mentioned above and lived there for many years. In 1882 Stephen E. Porter purchased the eighty acres where the town of Rose was later built.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter were the parents of three children, Bertha, Ollie and Niel.

Bertha married Arthur Evans, who at the time of their marriage was working in the gold mines at Victor, Colorado. They were the parents

of three children, Alma who married Frank Vice, Jessie who married George D. McKinsey and Edgar who married Olive Hall.

Ollie married James Clark. They moved to California soon after their marriage.

Niel A. married Ora Smith. They had three daughters, Cynthia, Charlotte and Blanche, three sons, Lowell, Jack and another who died as a very small child.

When Mrs. Edith Dumond Mentzer, wrote "Memories of My Valley" in 1950, she had this to say about the Porter Family. "Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Porter were known as Uncle Steve and Aunt Alma. Perhaps no other woman in my Valley gave a larger contribution of service to the community as did Mrs. Alma Porter. She was a wonderful nurse, mid-wife of outstanding ability and often filled the duties of undertaker in those pioneer days when doctors and nurses were practically unknown.



The Porter Family

Seated are Mrs. Alma Porter and Stephen E. Porter. Standing are their children, Ollie, Niel A., and Bertha.

Drug Store at Rose —

Along the north side of the county road that was the south side of the town of Rose was the site of a drug store. It was kept in the house of a "Doc" Higgins. Not only did 'Doc' Higgins maintain the drug store but to a certain extent practiced medicine. With a team of 'glassed-eyed' ponies and a buggy, he helped tend to the sick and ailing people of that community.

Rose School District No. 17 —

Like several of the "prairie" school districts, district No. 17 was organized in 1867. The first school board was: Clerk, George Trimble; Treasurer, Carl Miller; Director, Henry Lunsey. From 1869-72, the board at District No. 17 was; Clerk, E. Rook; Director, W.M. Patterson; Treasurer, A.P. Horton.

The first schoolhouse, one of those small 10 x 15 affairs with seats of native lumber or a log. There were large cracks in the siding where little rifts of snow would blow across the room. This first schoolhouse was located a mile north and a quarter east of where the town of Rose was. As the population of pioneers grew the center of the population would cause the moving of these schoolhouses.

The next move of the Rose School was about three-quarter mile west and almost a half mile south of the first location. That put it on the side hill on the east side of the road about a half mile north of Rose. Here the schoolhouse stood until the town of Rose was organized and established and the building was moved to the town site.

In 1937 the old frame schoolhouse was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Miss Ruth Krueger was the last teacher in the old school. While the new brick schoolhouse was being built, school was held for awhile in an empty house along the mail street of the village.

The only teacher's name we have before 1881, is Miss Connie Woodruff.

The list of teachers of the Rose School, Dist. No. 17, beginning in 1881 are: Belle Neighberger, J.P. Kelley, T.J. Bell, Jennie Edmondson, Emma DeWitt, J.D. Moffett, Mrs. Jennie Bideau, W.L. Shippey, A.J. Leonard, Cora Young, Clara Trembley, T.F. Morrison, Elizabeth Clow, Mariam Woodside, Orra Henderson, Fannis McGill, W.S. Dinsmore, C.A. Matthew, Grace Guthrie, Nellie Wyse, Lucille Graham, Carrie J. Bloss, Lodena Bryant, Clara Statan, Paul Carroll, Kathryn Bideau,

Rose Wix, Alma Evans, Ollie Meyers Mabie, Thomas Richard, Wallace Robson, Irma Schaede, Walter Robertson, Esther Watts, Carrie Toedman, Madge Robertson, Carrie Toedman, Ruth Krueger, Mary Kirby, Bertie Swilley, June Paustian, Mrs. Helen Leonard, Mrs. Marjorie Peck, Mrs. Eula Mae Holloway, Ruth Ann Canty, Clara Oehlert, Ruth Wells Stevens, Leona Ibbetson.

The last term of school at Rose was during the winter of 1959-60.

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After the school at Rose was discontinued the schoolhouse was sold to Guy 'Mike' McKinsey, who moved into it after the old home farm was sold.

* * * * *

The following picture of the pupils of the Rose School was taken in 1918. The teacher evidently took the picture.



Standing left to right: Madeline Monk, Geneva Finley, Ruth Orbin, Marjorie Monk, Jeruta Finley, Gwendlyn Cox. Down in front: Carl Dixon, Sam Alley, Merl Dixon, Edgar Evans, Luther Monk, Tom Cox. The teacher was Kathryn Bideau.



Another picture of the Rose School, was taken by the teacher, Carrie Toedman Fortner, about 1935-36. The five boys in back row are: Earl Orbin, Herbert Monk, Hadley Stranghorner, Osborn Hollinger, Fred Monk. Front row: Jeanette Stranghorner, Effie Hall, Dorothy Stranghorner, Myrtle Cox, Leland Hall, Billie Hall.

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The story of Rose and the people of that community will be told in the October, 1974 issue. It may take two more issues.

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FIRST BANK IN WOODSON COUNTY —

Some of the first settlers began to make their homes in this county in 1856. The first towns were started in 1857. During the years following and through the days of the Civil War, the county became rather thickly populated. But the first bank was not established until 1871.

Many of these first settlers had no extra money and needed no bank. Others who may have had money evidently had a secret hiding place. Perhaps there may have been a bank of some kind in either Allen or Coffey Counties.

The first bank in the county was established at Neosho Falls, by Isaac W. Dow, with W.W.P. McConnell as associate.

bank that later became known as the Citizens Bank. In 1896, the owners were W.W. Sain and Mrs. Lydia Snow, widow of Geo. Snow, with F.L. Snow as cashier. The latter was Miss Florence Snow, who became a very talented person. She wrote considerably. One of her books, "Pictures On My Wall," gives much of the early history of Neosho Falls. A copy of this book is in the Woodson County Historical Museum.

Another well-known bank at Neosho Falls was the Farmer's State Bank, organized by Warren Finney, who was president for several years.

During the 1920's there were two prosperous banks just a block apart in Neosho Falls, The Farmer's State on one corner and the Neosho Falls State Bank on another.

The Neosho Falls State Bank was owned and operated by Truman Gardner, assisted some by his son-in-law Aaron Pipenberg. As the Great Depression started in 1929, the Neosho Falls Bank was incorporated with the Farmers State Bank.

On June 29, 1933, the Farmers State Bank was robbed by a trio of burglars. The safe was taken from the bank and loaded on a truck. Two local men, L.L. King, the baker at Neosho Falls and Aaron Hibbs were forced to help the robbers in getting the safe and loading it.

About 1935, the Farmers State Bank was forced to close its doors by a "bond scandal," Ronald Finney, son of the president Warren Finney, seemed to be the one who manipulated the fraud. Glen D. Finney, cashier of the bank was absolved of any wrong. This was the end of the banking life at Neosho Falls. Most of the banking in that area now is done at Piqua.

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When the Farmers State Bank was robbed 1933, there was only about \$10,000 in Liberty bonds and a small amount of money was stolen by the robbers. Only \$500 worth of stolen bonds were not registered. King and Hibbs were taken about three miles south of the Falls before being released. King was given a cigarette by one of the bandits and commended for helping them. They promised to send "Twister" \$500 or \$1,000, if the safe contained more money than they could use.

* * * * *

THE EAGLE FAMILY —

In the hills and valleys formed by West Buffalo Creek, in the south part of Woodson County, lived several families of Eagles. The one we will take up at this writing will be that of Thomas Jasper Eagle, who

was born and grew up in Wayne County, Ohio. He was known mostly as Jasper. Thomas Jasper Eagle and Rebecca Jane Kahl were married in Ohio. They were the parents of five children-Stanford, Oliver, Arthur, Daisy and Fay.

In the fall of 1869, when their oldest son Stanford was two years old they came to Kansas, and to Woodson County.

We did not learn just how this family came here, but believe by rail most of the distance. J. Worth Eagle, a brother of Thomas J. Eagle came the same year and came by rail as far as Ottawa, as that was the end of the railroad to here in the spring of 1869. Samuel Kahl, a brother of Mrs. Thomas Eagle, also came to Woodson County in the spring of 1869. He too came by rail. The Worth Eagle homestead was along the east side of what is now US-75, where the highway makes the big bend to the west of the overpass a mile north of the Buffalo Cemetery. The Samuel Kahl homestead was just to the south of the Worth Eagle homestead to the west of where the highway goes on south to the county line.

Coming to the end of the railroad, Mr. Eagle evidently obtained a team and wagon to bring their belongings to this county.

Near where a branch of West Buffalo Creek runs through the southwest quarter of section 23, Twp. 26, R. 16, in Eminence Township, Thomas Eagle established his homestead.

While being transplanted from their Ohio home the Eagles brought with them flowers and shrubs from the Ohio home, such as peonies, hazel nuts, huckleberry and other.

While the branch ran through about the center of this farm, the west part was a blackjack covered hill. Thomas J. Eagle improved and made this into a productive farm. The children had to walk a mile south and a half west to the school district No. 28, known then as the Surprise School.

In the meantime a class of Seventh Day Adventist was organized at the West Buffalo Schoolhouse. Thomas Eagle became a leader in this organization, and in 1896, he moved to Topeka where he took the position as secretary and treasurer of the Adventist Church.

* * * * *

We will take up the children of Thomas J. and Rebecca Eagle. Stanford was the oldest, but we will have a separate account of him and his family.

Oliver Eagle married May Gould. Most of their family have lived around Buffalo for years.

Arthur married Mary Johnson.

Daisy was married to Walter Jefferson.

Fay never married.

Stanford Eagle was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in May, 1867. He was two years old when coming to Kansas with his parents in 1869. The remainder of his life was spent in the West Buffalo vicinity, where he was active in all school, church and civic activities.

On December 11, 1893, Stanford Eagle and Miss Sadie Hill were married. In the last issue we told about the Hill family. While always known as Sadie, her given name was Sarah. Stanford and Sadie Eagle started housekeeping on a farm five miles south and a half west of Yates Center.



Wedding picture of Stanford Eagle and Sadie Hill, taken in December, 1893.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Eagle purchased the southwest quarter of section 27, Twp. 25, R. 15, where a son Herschel now lives. A few years later they purchased and moved to a farm a mile east with Buffalo Creek running through the quarter section.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Eagle were the parents of five children - Kyle, Avis, Erma, Lewis and Herschel P.

Kyle the oldest never married.

Avis married Ed Ireland. They were parents of three children: Norma who married Dale George, Kenneth who married Naoma Shrader and Jean who married Bill George.

Erma married Joe Bresner. After his passing she married Wilbur Stockebrand.

Lewis married Pearl Hatch. Their children are Austin, Maxine and Betty.

Herschel P. married Grace Englebrecht. Their children are Thelma, Vivian, Charles, Marvin and Lavonne.

Lewis and Herschel both live on farms in Woodson Co. Erma lives on a farm just across the county line in Wilson County, east of the Buffalo Cemetery.

Mrs. Avis Ireland now lives in Yates Center, after teaching 27 years in the schools of Woodson County. She served ten years as Superintendent of Public Instruction. In fact she was the last one to hold that position—serving in that capacity when the office was discontinued.

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It may seem that a common farm wagon would be a rather impersonal thing, but we thought that the following item clipped from the Buffalo, Kansas Blade, sometime in 1930 was rather interesting - "Stanford Eagle, who lives northwest of Buffalo, came to town last Monday to do some trading. He stopped at The Blade office to get a drink and remarked that he was traveling in his wagon, which does not have the flat tire habit like his car—and all cars, for that matter.

While looking thru some papers the other day, he found a receipt for the wagon, which first came into the Eagle family in 1874. Stanford's father, T.J. Eagle, who is now living in Wichita, Kansas, purchased the conveyance from John and William Rath in Humboldt, Jan. 3, 1874. The price paid was \$45. The vehicle came into Stanford's possession when his father had a public sale a good many years ago.

Fifty-six years is a long span of useful service for a wheeled burden carrier, and it is still in the best of condition because of timely, intelligent care. It was built of the best of woods obtainable by the wheelwrights. During its career of more than half a century many changes have been wrought in the roads it has traveled. It has witnessed many an automobile on the road to the junk yard and yet it was a patriarch before the auto was perfected."

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